

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS



THE CELEBRITY AMONG US Before leaving for Manila, the Poncea does his traditional post-flight visit to the Wild Card Open in Los Angeles, attended by his trainer Freddie Roach, and is promptly mobbed. (Photo by AP)

CBCP: Day of shame in RP

World observes human rights day

By Dora Pazibugan, Edna C. Tindoc Jr. and Leticia B. Salaverria

TODAY'S OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN Rights Day is a source of "shame and embarrassment" for Filipinos, according to Jam Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

"We are ashamed, and we hope it is not completely true that our country is said to be the most corrupt in Asia and the second most corrupt in the world. This is because of human rights violations in various degrees. Does this call for a celebration?" the prelate said in a statement issued yesterday.

Lagdameo noted that the celebration of the 68th

CBCP 420



GOLD FINGER As a leading voice to battle, Sen. Ponce-Remonde delivers a rousing speech to over 400 colleagues during the 23rd founding anniversary of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Tuesday at the paper's main office in Makati City. (Photo by AP)

Manny to be named peace ambassador

By TJ Bugarin and Edna C. Tindoc Jr.

MANNY PACQUIAO, FRESH FROM HIS conquest of Oscar De La Hoya, is being tapped to be a "peace ambassador" from a jubilee nation, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"He will also be conferred the title of ambassador of peace," said Undersecretary Lorenz Inguado, deputy presidential spokesperson.

Even before his formally appointed ambassador of goodwill, Pacquiao already acts as one, said Environment Secretary Lito Alcantara, a fellow figure in the boxing

PHOTO 411

Media urged to prod gov't on murders

By Melvin Papa

PHILIPPINE MEDIA SHOULD REMIND and prod the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo to take more vigorous steps in addressing the killing of journalists all over the country.

This call was sounded yesterday by the President Panel for Filipino Journalists (PPFJ) in the course of pointing out that Leticia Misa de Rodas Pardo, who was killed in Southern Samar on Dec. 2, was the eighth journalist assassinated this year.

The PPFJ sponsored a media forum

PHOTO 420

Con-ass or Con-con? GMA stand sought

By GEC Cabanogon Jr.

THE "RAINBOW COALITION" IN THE House of Representatives may disintegrate unless President Macapagal-Arroyo sends her stand on her proposed media for Charter change—a constituent assembly (Con-ass) or constitutional convention (Con-con).

Alliance vs corruption hits Ombudsman

By Rosalind W. Domingo, DJ Tap and Christine Arandado

A MULTISECTORAL ALLIANCE against corruption yesterday criticized Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez for her "liberal track record" in fighting corruption cases as Gutierrez delin-

quished convictions (Con-con), a lawmaker said yesterday.

Senators Rep. Jose Solis, a Kapatagan stalwart, said he would visit Malacanang this week to seek an audience with the President and ask her point blank what made the House majority like should choose.

Special court ordered to try Marcos case

By Arjey dela Cruz

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED the creation of a special division of the Sandiganbayan to look into a case of alleged graft against the late former President Marcos after the chair of its five divisions submitted themselves for re-election.

In a resolution Dec. 2 in response to a letter of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Ricardo Perala about the "impasse" in

"I will tell her that as a stakeholder of (her) (to show) and (to show) (to founder), she should speak up on the issue and give us guidance," Solis said shortly after the adjournment of yesterday's hearing of the House committee on constitutional amendments.

CON-ASS 419

He cited involving large-scale corruption that have been brought before the Office of the Ombudsman.

It improved alarm over the widespread perception that [Gutierrez] has been less interested in prosecuting erring public officials than in pro-



Palace bars photos from Cabinet meeting

By TJ Bugarin

PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE FOR THE first time barred from covering the start of a Cabinet meeting yesterday but Press Secretary Jesus Durana said this was not an attempt to shut spring-players' gate at a meeting in one week.

PHOTO 417

Guyito winners picked from 2.5M entries

By Erika Sualar

AN AVALANCHE OF SOME 2.5 MILLION entries poured in for the Inquirer's 2nd Guyito 1984 Grand call the draw, which coincided with the paper's 23rd anniversary celebration yesterday.

Inquirer senior vice president for sales and marketing Vince Rosales said the Inquirer was more than double the 1.2 million entries that topped the previous grand draw.

GUYITO 41



HUNTING SEASON OVER Inquirer releases report on pile of entries. (Photo by AP)

Cops refuse to admit mistake in killing of tollway worker

By Arjey dela Cruz

RONALD RUBERO LEFT HIS HOUSE in Las Piñas at around 9 p.m. on Friday last week to report for duty at Skyway Corp., as he had done the last 25 years.

In the last five years, he had been taking his motorcycle, parking on his back porch and coming here to go to work as an assistant supervisor, inspecting toll booths along the South Luzon Expressway.

It was the last time his wife Lourdes would see him alive. Rubero, described by office mates as a model employee, never got to his office.

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He was one of the civilians killed in a gun battle between policemen and alleged robbers in Parangue, near the Skyway Corp. headquarters in Alabang.

Prieler said Rubero was one of the 12 members of the dissolved Wassy-Wassy gang who were shot dead during the incident, although his company ID card was clearly visible on his lifeless body.

Aide from Rubero, a father, his 7-year-old daughter and a policeman were killed in the encounter, according to police officials.

In a statement, the family expressed anger and disappointment over the inci-

CON-417

WEATHER FORECAST

Forecast (Cebu/Manila) given at 10:00 a.m. only. Daily forecast given at 10:00 a.m. only. Daily forecast given at 10:00 a.m. only.

Region	Forecast	Region	Forecast
Iloilo	10-15°C	Manila	10-15°C
Baguio	10-15°C	Quezon	10-15°C
Surigao	10-15°C	Palawan	10-15°C
Subic Bay	10-15°C	Visayas	10-15°C
San Jose	10-15°C	Visayas	10-15°C
Manila	10-15°C	Visayas	10-15°C
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Moro rebels release 7 hostages

MANILA, BANGAL, JORDO—Moro Liberation Front rebels on Wednesday freed the seven hostages they took from Marikina last week, a local official said yesterday.

Lombay Mayor Federico Pangay said Alvin Manalo,

Thomas de Luna, Wapernan Delaño, Joseph Rodriguez, Wilfred Layson, Paddy Pang, and Rodel Fernando were released after the MILF rebels received P200,000 for the hostages' "bread and lodging".

It was not clear where the

money came from.

Employer rift

The seven hostages were working for a local unit and gave contacts when the separatist rebels received them from Samangay Pangay in Marikina last week.

Dec. 7, 2006.

Fernando said they were told that the MILF had decided to abduct them because of a rift between the insurgent group and their employer, Julia Adia of Marikina Pangay.

De Luna said the MILF

rebels had warned the laborers against working in Marikina.

"We go back, they will kill us," he said.

The freed hostages said they were treated well by their kidnappers. Julia Adia, Pangay and Marikina

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PP'S TALLEST CHRISTMAS TREE
Fireworks light up the night sky as it coincides with the lighting of what has been named as the country's tallest Christmas tree, a 120-foot giant rising out of Pasig. Pasig City's fireworks show was also part of the celebration of the city fiesta.

Photo by [unreadable]



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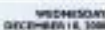
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we were like our artists and our cast, mixed.

According to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the war in Iraq, which is being condemned by the United States and Great Britain,

The Organization of the Islamic Conference should convene this

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[illegible]



We need genuine social and political reform for the many; Not self-serving charter change for a few.

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come... May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!
(Mark 13:33-37)

As we begin the season of Advent, we are called to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming – to be ready to welcome Him into our hearts and our communities not only at Christmas, but at every moment in our lives as individuals and as a people, in faithful and hopeful vigilance.

Sadly, in our country, the common good is often subordinated to narrow private interests. The needs of the majority who are poor are often sacrificed for the self-serving ends of a few. Many unresolved questions of corruption and abuse of power are festering in a culture of impunity and a political climate of deep distrust and powerlessness. Thus the call to watchfulness beckons Christians to become engaged citizens in a perilous time when democracy and social justice are under serious threat.

It is unfortunate that in the present context, charter change (cha-cha) which could truly be a genuine instrument of long-term institutional reform, is viewed with deep suspicion and is seen as endangering democracy itself. This is so because just as in 2006, its advocates can barely conceal that their real aim is not reform but further concentration of power. Even as they pay lip service to economic and political development, cha-cha proponents cannot disguise their overriding objective of prolonging the stay in power of current officials, particularly the President. One draft resolution (HR 530) even blatantly extends the terms of officials for one year without elections. The hasty efforts to collect 150 signatures in the House of Representatives calling for a constituent assembly (con-ast) or directly amending the economic provisions of the constitution are being pursued in order to get the Supreme Court to rule quickly on the meaning of a three-fourths majority in Congress which is needed to pass amendments via this mode of charter change. Those who are brazenly pushing these resolutions believe that if they can get the members, both in Congress and the Supreme Court, they can simply run cha-cha through.

In Catholic schools, we cannot stand idly by while the common good is sacrificed and our basic political institutions, including popular sovereignty through regular elections, the bicameral nature of Congress, an independent judiciary, and the hard-won 1987 democratic constitution itself, are thoroughly undermined.

What we need from our leaders is truth, accountability and genuine social and political reform for the majority. We certainly do not need any charter change that will only serve the narrow interests of the few who are currently in power. Thus we emphatically say: **No to any cha-cha before 2010!**

But more than just rejecting charter change now, we highlight two issues which Catholic schools are already engaged in and which demonstrate that there are more urgent questions that deserve the attention of Congress and other political leaders than self-serving cha-cha.

1) CARP extension with reforms and the issues of land, food and equitable development

We call for the immediate passage of HR 4037/58 2666 which seeks to extend the agrarian reform program to cover over 1.8 million more hectares affecting almost 1.5 million farmers. It also aims to strengthen CARP by increasing its resources and strengthening the institutional infrastructure for support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries and compensation to landowners. It also calls for the stricter enforcement of rules banning the conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands.

Agrarian reform is about creating a socio-economic system which seeks the inclusion of the majority of the rural population, and focuses on the imperative of food production, agricultural productivity and equitable development which in the end serves the needs of all, whether in the urban or rural areas.

Thus rather than pushing for the term extension of the few who are in power, we call on Congress to legislate the CARP extension with reforms that address the needs of the many who are poor. This is consistent with the social teachings of the Church which we uphold. Instead of amending the constitution to extend and ownership rights to foreigners, Congress should work for social and economic development by expanding and completing CARP.

2) Electoral reform, voters' education and credible and meaningful elections in 2010

In rejecting cha-cha before 2010, we want to ensure that the Filipino people are able to exercise their fundamental right to choose their next set of leaders as provided for in the constitution. That we oppose any schemes to cancel, postpone or change the nature of the 2010 national elections, because the political crisis facing the country is deeply linked to unresolved questions of electoral cheating, it is crucial that the next presidential election proceeds as scheduled and is seen as credible and meaningful to our people.

Our work in the educational apostolate puts us in close touch with the youth who comprise at least half of our potential voters. We are committed to help them exercise their right of suffrage wisely by encouraging first-time voters' registration and providing full support to political education for responsible and engaged citizenship. Beyond traditional voter education, we want to facilitate continuing processes for our people, especially poor communities, to be able to articulate their real needs and aspirations. We will also work to develop mechanisms that challenge politicians to make concrete commitments of genuine and effective response and monitoring systems to make them accountable for their promises. We are mobilizing especially our human resources to safeguard the process in the context of automated elections. Automation needs to be enhanced and fine-tuned to guard against disenfranchisement and to make it more accessible to and protective of vulnerable groups. But reforming our electoral process to make it truly inclusive and meaningful to the majority requires further reforms in voters' registration, the party system, campaign finance and political dynamics. These issues call for serious attention and dedicated work from our legislators and executive officials. We cannot afford to get sidetracked by moves toward self-serving charter change, from the urgent need to prepare for credible elections and truly meaningful citizen participation in 2010.

Both the demands of our faith and of citizenship call on us to keep vigil against the continuing threats to the common good. We are challenged to engage the present situation wherein democracy is in grave danger of being usurped by those who want to hold on to power indefinitely and evade accountability to the people.

But the call is not just to defend democracy. We are asked to help deepen democracy to make it truly inclusive, participative and socially just. It is this kind of democratic system that truly befits the name. Thus we commit ourselves to building a genuine democracy which embodies our core belief in the dignity of every human being, that God Himself shared by becoming one like us in Jesus.

Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), December 5, 2008

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Quezon folk to cast historic vote

Campaign for yes, no votes marred by polls

LUCENA CITY—THE PEOPLE OF QUEZON WILL vote in a historic plebiscite on Dec. 13 to decide whether to allow the province's division into two separate political units—Quezon del Sur and Quezon del Norte.

In the past 20 days, the rivalry to the campaign reached feverish pitch as the "for" and "no" proponents used every odd trick in the election campaign arsenal of traditional politicians.

They even flouted the sanctity of Malabita Highway and major streets of the province's 40 towns and cities.

Leading the campaign for 'no' votes was former Gov. Rogelio Yabico; his son Quezon Rep. Luciano "Beto" Yabico Jr. (Liberal Party) and Rep. Danilo Yabico (Liberal Party).

Three Catholic bishops—Epifanio Iñiguez of Lucena, Bernardino Francisco of Calapan and Malabita Tito Yano of Iloilo—supported the division.

Behind the campaign are Gov. Rafael Rivera and his allies who have formed various groups to block the division.

Quezon Rep. Ralph Evangelista of Iloilo; Quezon Rep. Gregorio Iñiguez, from the 1st dist.

Quezon Rep. Francisco Alcala has taken the campaign to the streets.

Under Republic Act 9405, 77 towns in the 1st and several districts of the province will be divided as Quezon del Norte and Quezon del Sur.

Quezon City will remain in capital Quezon del Sur while the rest of the province will be divided into two districts.

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HOME COMING People light up the city, drawing a silhouette of the Obispo, the University of the Philippines' icon, during its vibrant homecoming in the UP Region last Dec. 5.

Woman says husband victim of mistaken identity

QUEZON CITY—THE WIFE of a Bangladeshi national, who was arrested in Marikina City last week, says her husband was a victim of mistaken identity. She says her husband was a victim of mistaken identity.

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CENTENNIAL IN 2009 Experts debate on what Baguio legacy is

By Vincent Carpio
Special Correspondent

BAGUIO CITY—WHAT IS Baguio's legacy when it turns 100 years old in 2009?

Experts discussing Baguio's legacy have just said the city's education system helped shape the rest of the country's development.

Baguio's legacy, they said, is its role in the country's development.

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This green gem on a mountain was once known as Baguio City. This building is known as Baguio's landmark in the 1900s.

Baguio and the construction of Baguio. The construction of Baguio was a major project in the early 20th century.

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Cagayan de Oro sales girl 'eyeballs' text mate, is found dead

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A sales girl in Cagayan de Oro was found dead after a text message exchange.

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Meralco told: Pay back P.4M to ex-envoy's kin

Use of 'jumper' not proven, court rules

By Herman Bordado

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS ORDERED MANILA Electric Co. to pay more than P400,000 in damages to the family of a former ambassador after it cut the power to their house in North Forbes Park, Makati City for allegedly using a jumper in 1999.

In a 17-page decision, the appellate court's 1999 decision and that on Energy Regulatory Board representation should have been and attended to the discovery of the jumper before the alleged jumper was used.

Personally witnessed

The law says that before testimony is given, the witness must be sworn. The discovery of the jumper

legal act of electricity must have been personally witnessed and attested to by an authorized representative," the court said.

In this case, the discovery was effected immediately after the discovery of the alleged jumper which was witnessed only by Meralco employees," it added.

The ruling upheld the decision of the trial court which said that the

power line failed to prevent or cause the jumper and the wire. Leticia, had installed a jumper on the line.

Mistake right

According to the appellate court, Meralco had no legal right to immediately disconnect the jumper electricity on Jan. 21, 1999 following the alleged discovery of the power theft device.

"That Meralco's been more concerned and prudent, plaintiffs' appellate could have been given the opportunity to compare the total finding of the alleged jumper," it said.

"Meralco, the alleged jumper was never presented in court, but was by the Meralco employees who conducted the

inspection," it added.

Based on court records, the power company immediately cut off the jumper electrical connection and demanded a disconnection fee of P100,000 for the billing month.

Although power was restored on the same day, Leticia had to deposit P119,000 with Meralco's legal department the following day.

In his defense, the former ambassador said that they bought the house in North Forbes Park 15 years after the alleged jumper was installed.

The court ordered the Meralco P100,000 to actual damages, P30,000 in moral damages, P20,000 in exemplary and punitive damages and P20,000 to lawyer's fees.

DID YOU KNOW

In 2008, there were about 2.2 million working children aged 15 to 17 in the Philippines. 32.5% women, 74,000 were in Metro Manila.

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MANILA Police Bureau director Chief Supt. Roberto Fuentes and Bureau police director Supt. Mario Reyes inspect the firearms seized from members of a robbery gang during a raid on the bagging's school in Cebu on the weekend. (CNN/Reuters)

3 rob gang suspects tagged in school raid

By Raymond Andruic

SECURITY GUARDS OF THE St. Sebastian's College in Manila yesterday tagged three suspected members of the Glanville robbery gang among the men who ended the school's lockdown and other serious guns and communication equipment.

The three were among eight alleged gang members who were arrested by the Manila Police District in their supposed hideout in Marikina City on Saturday.

The police also recovered from the gang members four of the stolen .38-caliber, 38-caliber, which were stolen from the school on Oct. 31. The 12 suspect men dressed in formal uniforms and the 1st and 2nd units.

After taking down the school, seven men were

also, three cellular phones and two handheld radios.

New other suspects were also found during the raid on the rob gang's hideout. One of the school's security guards identified one of the gang members—Rico Quinsig, 30, also known as "Rico" (Roberto Quinsig), "Roberto" (Quinsig), and "Roberto"—as the leader of the school and who lived there very close to the school.

The police said Quinsig is the leader of the robbery gang.

The security guard said the police had during the raid on the school, Quinsig, who was carrying a high-powered firearm, was wearing a SWAT uniform with a white cap on his head.

The suspects also tagged two other gang members

identified as En-Enne Scott Pongor, 44—whose name appears as "En-Enne" in the police's list of suspects—and Jack Quinsig.

Investigation said that they were also able to pin down the three men using footage taken by the school's security cameras.

Meanwhile, one of the gang members arrested in Cebu was identified as among the 15 heavily-armed men dressed in police uniforms who raided the Sanitex machines in San. Maria, Marikina, in September.

At a press conference at the BPP headquarters yesterday, Manila police chief Supt. Roberto Fuentes said Chief Quinsig had several men of his group in search.

BEYOND LASIK

The first-ever ICL or Implantable Contact Lens operation in the Philippines administered at Manila Doctors Hospital.

Spearheaded by Dr. Michael S. Naga from MDH Department of Ophthalmology with STAAR Surgical Area Manager for Asia Pascal Aeschlimann, the operation marked a breakthrough in providing vision correction.

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Pakistan won't hand Mumbai suspects to India

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN today said it would not hand over any suspects in the Mumbai bombings to India and warned that while it would police with its neighbor, it was ready for war if New Delhi threatened attack.

The remarks came amid escalating tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors after India said it is keeping all options open following last month's carnage in Mumbai, where 173 people were killed and more than 300 wounded.

"We do not want to impose war,

but we are fully prepared to use war if imposed on us," Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said.

"We are not oblivious to our responsibilities as defined in international law, but it is our desire that there should be peace,"

Indian officials say the *Lashkar-e-Taliban* group, which is based in Pakistan, might be behind the bombings, but the government, in behind the blockade, and Indian media have suggested there could be Indian strikes in civilian camps.

Qureshi said he was sending "a very clear message" that his country did not want conflict with India.

"We want friendship, we want peace and we want stability—but our desire for peace should not be considered Pakistani weakness,"

The minister also said that Indian demands for the extradition of suspects in the Mumbai attacks were one of the questions and that Pakistan, which has arrested 15 people since Saturday would keep them in custody.

"The actions are being made for

our own investigations. Even if all inquiries are proved against any suspect, he will not be handed over to India," Qureshi said.

He said against these arrests of *Lashkar-e-Taliban* leaders.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain and nearly came to a fourth in 2001 after an attack on the Indian parliament that was blamed on *Lashkar-e-Taliban* (LeT).

Under international pressure to act, Pakistan on Sunday asked a court to

allow that many believe have links to *Lashkar-e-Taliban*, and arrested 15 people.

The party is headed by LeT's founder Hafeez Saeed.

The LeT has been banned by Pakistan, but India accuses it of being behind the Mumbai attacks. It has been accused of being behind the Mumbai attacks.

India on Monday condemned the arrests, saying the Pakistan government had shown "weakness by releasing

harmless organizations."

One of the three India officials who were caught over the Mumbai attacks, which is considered a major defeat to India by both sides, and the United States in particular have urged extradition of the *Lashkar-e-Taliban*.

Pakistan authorities were unwilling and to be questioning a 300-page, *Lashkar-e-Taliban* report, which was accused as having been written by the late surviving member of the group as a key player behind the Mumbai attacks.

AFP



Massive riots cripple Greece's main cities

Massive riots cripple Greece's main cities

ATHENS, GREECE—A SMOKE of police smoke, tear gas and blood filled the streets of Athens in a third day of rioting Monday after the fatal police shooting of a teenager sparked the worst riots since the country has seen in decades.

Dozens of shops, banks and even luxury hotels were damaged and set on fire as rioters looted and burned buildings with riot police through the night. Black smoke rose above central Athens, mingling with clouds of tear gas.

"Cop! F---! M---!" protesters screamed as riot police.

Police said rioting was starting in the early hours of Tuesday, although some clashes continued in central Athens. Dozens of rioters pushed their way up a university building, under Greek law, police are barred from

entering universities.

Police Minister Costas Karamanlis, whose increasingly unpopular conservative government has already faced a growing number of sometimes violent demonstrations against economic and education reforms, called the riots.

"All the dangerous and uncontrolled events that occurred because of the reactions that followed the single incident cannot and will not be tolerated," he said in his last televised address.

His top adviser was arrested. In an outpouring of rage over the Saturday night shooting of 15-year-old Alexander Gligoriadis, high school and university students joined self-organized marches in attacking police stations, smashing stores and burning buildings. Police said some 100 cars were set on fire, dozens of shops and schools.

Mumbai terrorists relied on technology for attacks

MUMBAI, INDIA—THE TERRORISTS who struck this city in November planned their attacks not only with their use of sophisticated weaponry but also with their control with modern technology.

The tactics navigated across the Arabian Sea to Mumbai from Karachi, Pakistan, with the help of a global positioning system (GPS) device. While some say, they communicated using a satellite phone with those in Pakistan believed to have coordinated the attacks. They recognized their targets and knew the most direct routes to reach them in just because they had studied satellite photos from Google Earth.

And, perhaps most significantly, throughout the three-day siege at less than 100 yards

and a Jewish center, the Indian-based handlers communicated with the attackers using burner phones that can change efforts to trace and intercept calls.

These handlers, who were apparently watching the attacks unfold live on television, were able to inform the attackers of the movement of security forces from news networks and provide the patients with instructions and encouragement, authorities said.

These handlers, Mumbai's police commissioner, said on Monday that an open computer technology—including global positioning systems and satellite phones—have become staples in operations, especially, like anyone else, have become adept at using them.

AP

Mugabe rejects Western pressure

BLANKET—PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe has again accused Britain and the United States of plotting an invasion of Zimbabwe, following mounting international pressure on him to resign. An spokesman said on Sunday.

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The World

Editor: Lorraine B. Quins

Sept. 11 plotters say they want to confess

GIANTMANN MAY NOW at Base, Cuba—The five men charged with coordinating the Sept. 11 attacks are in a hurry to enter guilty pleas on their apparent guilt for martyrdom, with only six weeks remaining before President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

The men, who claim to be innocent, say they decided on this 4-4-4 day theme on Sept. 11, the day Obama was elected, to show their innocence against the capital charges. Obama opposes the military trial and has pledged to close Guantanamo's detention camp, which holds more 200 men.



A COURTROOM showing down Khalid bin Muhammad (left) and Khalid bin Muhammad (right) being escorted by US Marshals.

Khalid bin Muhammad on Monday said a military judge he will defend to counteracting the attack that killed 2,975 people, shocking relatives who watched from behind glass panes.

Four other men also abandoned their defenses, to often stating the Pentagon gave them up for transportation. The judge ordered lawyers to advise them on 4-4-4 before the Pentagon can apply the death penalty, which military prosecutors are seeking—without a jury trial.

"I never went to be guilty and that's a fact about them," said Mohamed Seneff, of Long Island City, New York, whose brother-in-law is Osama bin Laden. He said the Pentagon is trying to get the men out of the country.

At a press conference after the hearing, bin Laden's brother-in-law said the Pentagon is trying to get the men out of the country.

"I never went to be guilty and that's a fact about them," said Mohamed Seneff, of Long Island City, New York, whose brother-in-law is Osama bin Laden. He said the Pentagon is trying to get the men out of the country.

the court's decision on confession," however, when the judge said one of the defendants could not plead until the court determines their mental competency. The other three said they would wait until.

One plea request was based on "joint requests," said defense attorney Albin J. Han.

The judge, Amy C. Gableman, said that the law specifies that only defendants voluntarily admitted by a jury can be sentenced to death in the civilian trial. The jury has been sworn.

Gregory C. Gableman, the chief prosecutor for the Government, already said he expects a jury would be seated in four months in a sentencing phase of the trial and would decide on what punishment to give to the defendants.

Gableman said requests that the defendants, "to even-minded and just men," would come for the men are possible, though the court would not be bound by the law of the land.

"I do not wish to see any," he said, "but I will be there."

Human rights observers and the judge's uncertainty about sentencing highlights problems with American law enforcement, which has been accused of human rights violations.

The request "is immediate hearing and



ONE OF THIRTY MEMORABLE IMAGES King penguins (left) make new partners from the Herring Islands in the South Atlantic. Kingfishers (right) are on the Herring Islands. Kingfishers (right) are on the Herring Islands. Kingfishers (right) are on the Herring Islands.

Major events of the year

JANUARY

The French bank Société Générale admits that a single securities trader lost it all more than billion euros (\$7 billion) in assets.

February

While support from many law firms all across countries, Russia formally declares independence from Serbia. In February, Russia is in the middle of a military operation in the Balkans.

March

Emir Abdelaziz is elected president of Russia, succeeding Vladimir Putin, who is elected as the prime minister.

April

The opposition in Zimbabwe claims it has won election, but president Robert Mugabe refuses to concede.

May

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June

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August

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September

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October

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November

The opposition in Zimbabwe claims it has won election, but president Robert Mugabe refuses to concede.

December

The opposition in Zimbabwe claims it has won election, but president Robert Mugabe refuses to concede.

August

Scots 130 British soldiers die in a mine attack in northern India.

The Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who denounced the Soviet Union system of labor camps, dies aged 89.

The American Olympic Games in Beijing, 2008, without incident.

Emmanuel Macron is elected president of France.

Algeria officially says it is a democracy, after years of military rule.

South Korea receives a pledge to its nuclear power industry.

The Caribbean Sea area is a major source of oil.

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ERRATUM

ON THE JOINT DOH-DTI-IP-SPAD ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2008-01: THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 9502 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE CHEAPER AND QUALITY MEDICINES ACT OF 2008"

Rule 12. Compulsory Licensing.

Section 4. Period for Filing a Petition for Compulsory License. A compulsory license may not be applied for on the ground stated in Section 5(b) before the expiration of a period of four (4) years from the date of filing of the application or three (3) years from the date of the patent whichever period expires last. A compulsory license which is applied for on any of the grounds stated in Section 5(b), 5(c), 5(d), 5(e) and 5(f) of this Rule may be applied for at any time after the grant of the patent. (34.7)

Section 11. Procedure for Compulsory License. The procedures for Compulsory Licensing are as follows:

- (i) Filing of Reply and Rejoinder. The petitioner may file a reply within a non-extendible period of ten (10) days from receipt of the copy of the Answer. On the other hand, the Respondent may file a rejoinder also within a non-extendible period of ten (10) days from receipt of the Reply. (JPP Rules)
- (ii) Effect of Failure to File an Answer. In case the Respondent fails to file an Answer or if the Answer is filed out of time, the case shall be decided on the basis of the petition, the affidavits of witnesses and the documentary evidence submitted by the petitioner. (JPP Rules)
- (iii) Decision on the Pleadings. Within fifteen (15) days after the last responsive pleading has been filed, the Director of the BIA may render the decision on the case if the same does not warrant further proceedings. (JPP Rules)



Nikolov suggests Balkan Karavak after his arrest.

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Tennis • Children's Play Area • Day Care Center • Spa and Salon
Game Room with Interactive Internet Game Studio • Shop/Store/Service Studio
Cafe with Lounge Seating, Spanish-Style Terrace and Fencing Terrace • The Lounge

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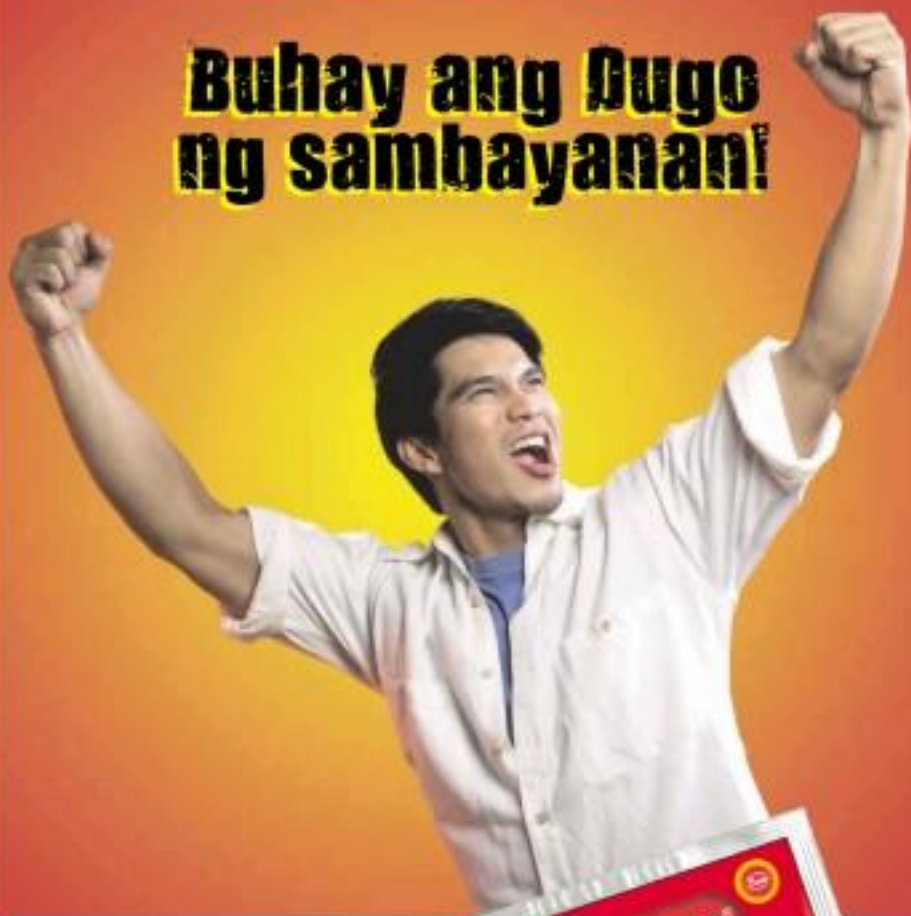
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ang lakas mo, idol!**

**Buhay na buhay
ang sarap
ng tagumpay mo!**



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Giants' Fil-Am standout due in Manila

By Corrie E. Tapia

CRISTO ESPINOSA, THE FIRST FULL-blooded Filipino to play Major League Baseball since Bobby Balboa in 1906, is arriving in Manila on Friday for a four-day visit that will include an appearance in the Baseball Philippines Championship Series.

The 28-year-old Espinosa, a reliever for the San Francisco Giants last season,

will also give the championship games of the Philippine Elite Tournament of Champions organized by the Asian Baseball and Softball Federation, as well as conduct clinics for the National baseball and softball community.

"Baseball is not the biggest sport in the Philippines, but maybe I can inspire some kids and spread the sport's popularity there," Espinosa said in a July interview with manila.asianweek.com.

He will also make the ceremonial pitch in the Baseball Philippines Finals at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark in Manila.

Born in Hawaii, Espinosa, to the late Leo Espinosa and Thelma Macabulos, Espinosa was drafted out of Santa Christiana University by the Giants in the 33rd draft and was assigned to the Fresno Grizzlies, a AAA club which is part of the Giants organization. The 5-foot-4, 195-pound left-handed

gave up the intention to represent the United States in the Beijing Olympics to play for the Giants, which called him up last July 23. He won his debut against the Washington Nationals.

He played 75 games, went 3-4 with a 3.04 ERA.

Espinosa will also visit his mother's hometown, Lumban, Laguna, and will be honorarily welcomed accordingly by US Air Force Band 3d Band Army after midnight.



ESPINOSA: Also played for US Olympic team.

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New investors start Rapu-Rapu mine rehab fund

THE NEW INVESTORS TO THE RAPU-RAPU POLYMETALLIC PROJECT have deposited an initial P10 million into an investor fund for the first mine rehabilitation and decommissioning fund (FMRP), according to project director Scott Gai of IIG International.

The fund will cover the costs of rehabilitating the site and decommissioning the mine when operations end after five years, based on mineral reserves.

While the fund is a legal and regulatory requirement, it need not be started until the FMRP is approved. The investor fund deposit put up over before the rehabilitation and decommissioning plan for the project was approved by regulators, it is possible the first event to be made by any mining operation in the country. When the plan is approved, similar deposits into the fund by IIG will start, based on estimated schedule.

The three new shareholders of the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic project are LGI Metals, owned with 42 percent equity, and Green Resources Corp., with 28 percent equity, under a joint venture named Polymet, and Malayan Branded Corp., with 30 percent equity.

The operations and processing operations are conducted by private subsidiaries Rapu-Rapu Mining Inc. and Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. The project entered operations in October.

EDC plans to borrow \$500M in '09

By April 1, he

EDC INTERNATIONAL GROUP expects to borrow \$500 million to finance \$100 million new year-to-date in capital expenditure and the acquisition of some National Power Corp. generation assets.

EDC president Paul Aguirre said the company planned to participate in the bidding for the P2.3-billion 330-MW Palay Power Plant, 113.8MW Cagayan and 110-MW Bataan Barge and other facilities, which would be auctioned off next year.

Part of the company's borrowing requirement for 2009 had already been covered by the recently signed P4.1-billion loan deal with the International Finance Corp. The pattern occurred with the Manila Bank.

In the meantime, EDC is still in the process of bidding for non-discriminated loans, a large part of which would fall due in 2010 and 2011. Part of the year loan had been committed to other loans but IGC wanted to cover the debt (see page 10).

The bidding are still ongoing and a perfect hedge, which

was to make it a pre-loan hedge by buying prior to the bid. The company is still in the process of making part of the first hedge, we won't touch that expense because of the current exchange rate, it would not make sense. We are allowed to just take it," Aguirre told reporters.

As of the first quarter, EDC's long-term debt stood at P2.3 billion, 40 percent of which was syndicated.

In an earlier interview, Aguirre said EDC had concluded two bidding transactions covering 10 billion yen (80.2 billion) in 2009, the closing of the 12-billion-yen (P44.5 billion) Singapore 1 billion made by due in June 2009.

EDC chief financial officer Francis Rodriguez said that the company could avoid more than P1.3 billion worth of yen-denominated loans, all falling due in 2009 and 2010, into US dollars.

She said the company was inclined to bridge the bulk of its yen exposure, or 14 billion yen of the total 12 billion yen, due to the volatility of the currency and the relative strength of the peso.

IG CEREMONY



(FROM LEFT) EDC Unibank president Manuel V. Tan, Manila Pacific Investment Corp. chair Manuel P. Pangalos, SOFPA chair Jose A. Lujano and IIGP, president and CEO Jose N. C. Lim sign the agreement governing the 12-year bond rate exposure agreement of IIGP. The location is marked with the name of the IIGP's organization of IIGP's organization in Manila North, Philippines Corp., the company's holder of the Manila North, Philippines Corp., and a 49 percent stake in IIGP. Management Corp., operator of IIGP.

Julie's new product line uses coco flour

By Amy P. Neco

Julie's PROCESSION CHOCOLATE started offering customer from behind bakery products in a bid to provide customers healthier options.

The new line, called Julie's Procecion, includes pure, dark, medium brown, cream, and white chocolates, as well as other products, including and candy bars, according to Julie's

Procecion chief executive officer Jose Antonio Gaudin.

In a press conference, Gaudin said customer from behind bakery products in a bid to provide customers healthier options, which would be made available initially in the Philippines.

This is the first time that a private company will use coconut flour for the commercial production of their bread products.

Procecion's new line introduced as the market two years ago, according to officials of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Coconut flour, locally known as aprik, which would be made available initially in the Philippines, is a byproduct of coconut oil pressing and is not containing most of the oil with from coconut, said the PCA said.

Gaudin said Procecion flour would account for at least 10 percent of the total bread volume.

The intention is not mainly to replace wheat flour, which is still the main ingredient, but to add coconut flour to the bread and make it healthier and more nutritious, Gaudin said.

Currently, according to Gaudin, coconut flour only 3 percent of the total bread production but would rise to 10 percent of the total bread volume.

CARP two (Part 2)

THERE IS NO EXISTING TRAVE if a farmer farmer wants to use the land for other, he will make more money and improve the quality of life.

But the original government (private) use that production could not be sustained if the farmer wants to use and will only give back to the land, but not to the farmer.

This is why, after the start of CARP, the farmer needs to be able to use the land for other purposes, to improve the quality of life.

Procecion line, including, but not limited to, the use of coconut flour, is a byproduct of coconut oil pressing and is not containing most of the oil with from coconut, said the PCA said.

Another major problem the new landowners have was access to credit. So, the government organized the farmers into credit cooperatives, to help them access credit.

The program was a flop. Managing credit cooperatives was quite different from planting rice, but the credit and planting problem was from the failure of the Philippine farming banks.

The children who are largely from the old land, are not allowed to go to school to become doctors, lawyers or engineers.

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QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Manuel C. Gervacio

In Bulacan, where the new plant will be built, the new plant will be built.

He has a cluster of 20 thousand hectares, or a total of 30 thousand hectares, the land is owned by the landowner.

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December 2008

Rural banks post 9.95% NPL-to-total loans ratio

By Michelle V. Neco

THE COUNTRY'S RURAL and cooperative banks posted a 9.95 percent non-performing loans (NPL) ratio to total loans last year, up from 9.62 percent in March.

The National Association of Banks and Finance (NABF) said.

As of end June, rural banks' non-performing loans reached P10.1 billion while their total loans portfolio was placed at P101.47 billion.

A loan to non-performing ratio of 9.95 percent is considered non-performing if it is not paid 90 days or more after the date of maturity.

The increase in the NPL ratio is due to the increase in the non-performing loans ratio.

As of end June, rural banks' non-performing loans reached P10.1 billion while their total loans portfolio was placed at P101.47 billion.

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Asia stocks rise on stimulus hope

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS ENDED higher on Tuesday as investors bet that gains were kept in check as hopes for big government spending to revive growth were offset by investors playing away from risk in wrapping up a festive 2008.

"Despite these additional government support and economic stimulus plans to help economies," said Yujiro Iwata, a market analyst at Citic Pacific Securities in Hong Kong, "the economic will is in deep doubt, and we will probably see more gains in 2009."

Global stocks ended higher on Monday as US authorities devalued a rescue plan for struggling automakers and US President Barack Obama said he would undertake the biggest infrastructure spending since the 1930s.

Investors are still debating whether the sharp sell-off this year has run its course or there is more to come in the global economy. The dollar rose to a three-month peak, a day after surging 7 percent, partly on hopes Obama would announce a large-scale stimulus package.

"It is not clear if the dollar is already repriced, or the case for a rally is gone," said William Wood, strategist for Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, adding that aggressive recovery funds may raise and lower spending packages give some hope that markets have bottomed out. The MSCI index of Asia-Pacific stocks ended up 0.3 percent and reached a one-month peak, a day after surging 7 percent, partly on hopes Obama would announce a large-scale stimulus package.

"The financial crisis is still having trouble to leave its mark on capital, which is leading to a loss of confidence in the global economy," said the IMF, which said the global economy is still in a recession.

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Sony to cut 8,000 jobs

TOKYO—SONY IS SLASHING 8,000 jobs, or 10 percent of its global work force, starting on Jan. 1, to cut costs by \$1.1 billion a year, as a global downturn and stronger yen hurt its business.

Sony Corp., which has 110,000 employees worldwide, said Monday it would announce the layoffs by the end of March 2010. It did not give a company heads-down for the job cuts, but said they would come from its electronics business, including 100,000 workers.

The company, maker of the Walkman portable player and PlayStation 3 game console, also has music, video game and financial services divisions.

Sony's announcement comes amid a wave of similar moves from Japanese manufacturers, who last year slashed demand at home and abroad.

The electronics industry has been hit by plunging gadget prices, currency fluctuations, intense competition



SONY will reduce its global work force by 10 percent as it tries to boost profitability in its core business amid a global downturn.

and a global slowdown in consumer spending. The company makes about 40 percent of its sales overseas, but in a recession, it is vulnerable to a stronger yen, which weakens its exports.

Japan has made up about 10 percent of its global work force, but it is still a major market for the company.

Democrats push for \$15-B rescue for US automakers

WASHINGTON—DEMOCRATS in Congress proposed a \$15-billion bailout package for the troubled US auto industry after passing legislation to the White House, which had yet to sign off on the congressional rescue package.

The proposal offers less than half of the \$30 billion General Motors, Chrysler and Ford said they would need to survive all a "catastrophic collapse" of the nation's automotive industry.

The low-cost, government-backed loans—which would give the government an ownership stake in the firms—were introduced to avert the troubled car firms from bankruptcy, allowing them to continue to produce cars and address the problems after the crisis ends.

Obama said the package would give the US government an ownership stake in the firms, which would be sold back to the private sector.

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the big Three US automakers. The proposal will be a presidential signature, or "bill of law," to overcome the opposition of the US House of Representatives, which has yet to pass a similar measure.

The bill also requires the automakers to sell their private cars and plants until they are able to return to production, similar to the bailout legislation for banks.

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Japan deeper in recession, third quarter GDP shows

TOKYO—JAPAN'S ECONOMY SANK deeper into recession in the third quarter than initially estimated, indicating that the world's second-largest economy is facing its longest contraction ever.

The report shows economy now likely to keep shrinking at least until the first quarter of next year, which would mark a potential record for the longest period of decline in the world's second-largest economy.

Japan's economy contracted 0.3 percent in July-September, far worse than the preliminary figure of a 0.1 percent decline, revised GDP figures showed on Tuesday.

The revision was bigger than expected, said Toshiaki Shikata, senior economist at Dai-ichi Kangmei Co., a Tokyo-based research firm.

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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

and
60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
10 December 2008

Dignity and Justice for all of us



CHR 4th Commission leads
It's employees at ABS-CBN Game Show "Wowowee".

From L-R: Comm. Norberto dela Cruz, Comm. Cecilia Rachel Gansambing, Chairperson Lela M. De Lima, and Comm. Ma. Victoria Y. Cardona

www.chr.gov.ph

December 10 Activities

9 am - UDHR Anniversary Commemoration Heritage Hotel

1 pm - UDHR Anniversary Ceremony Metacorn Palace

1:30 pm - Kapitan on Human Rights Heritage Hotel

VISION STATEMENT

A Philippine society where the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons are enjoyed, respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled by all, with a government committed to human rights norms and standards.

Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

Simplified Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. All human beings are born free and equal.
2. No discrimination. No one is entitled to all the human rights.
3. Right to the liberty and security of person.
4. No slavery.
5. No torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.
6. Everyone should be recognized by his personality.
7. We're all equal and entitled to protection against discrimination.
8. For violations, you have legal remedies.
9. No arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. Need legal laws.
10. Right to fair trial.
11. No one presumed innocent until proved guilty by legal means.
12. Right to privacy and to reputation.
13. Right to freedom of movement and residence.
14. Right to seek asylum.
15. Right to nationality and to change nationality.
16. Right to marry. Marriage needs consent. Family is protected.
17. Right to own property. No arbitrary deprivation.
18. Right to freedom of thought and religion.
19. Freedom of expression and opinion.
20. Freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
21. Right to take part in govt. and equal access to public service.
22. Right to social security & economic, social and cultural rights.
23. Right to work, just and equal pay, form trade unions.
24. Right to rest and leisure, holidays with pay.
25. Standard of living, Social Services, Protection for all children.
26. Right to Education.
27. Right to cultural life, copyright.
28. Right to a world where all rights can be realized.
29. Everyone has duties to the community for human rights.
30. No one can take away your human rights.





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MOTORING

Editor: Cesar D. Mangosing

Online: auto.inquirer.com.ph

For more information on cars, visit www.inquirer.com/motoring or call 1-800-828-8282

Breaking loose on a gut-wrenching mud trail

By Tess R. Salazar

LARA CROFT WANTS: here, not the Queen of England or the oil barons of Russia, but their utilitarian vehicles of choice—the Land Rover Defender and Range Rover (Sport)—lording it over a 30-kilometer off-road trail in Ilocos City, Greenfield, San Rosa, Laguna. Joining these man machines were the Discovery and Freelander.

The reason for Land Rover's success at global extremes was exemplified in this latest mud maul: a 18-day off-road race (Land Rover Philippines Motor, Inc., London, Adventurer and the Land Rover Club of the Philippines). The Land Rover Phil-

ippines, with himself importer of Land Rover in the Philippines, teamed with Miss Properties for a hard-core off-road race track.

Extreme off-road drive

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines was the only country that conducted an extreme off-road drive for the Land Rover lineup of vehicles.

The boys who make pita out of seemingly nothing at all truly put us to the test. Off-road guru Bobby Burgos and Bobby Comol, who oversee the training of the coach, said they enjoyed this race immensely. "There were no restrictions, and the manufacturers were the confidants of their vehicles," Bobby said, with a twinkle in his eye.

That gets proved to be a host of things to come. The big boys' off-road country was a real testbed for the series, who subsequently led this all part of a "True Test" episode, where, first driving a 2007 Defender, then the latest model Defender, she climbed a

very "steep" and was made to rock the vehicle back and forth on a drive path and the series, then, ultimately, to balance the entire race on vehicle right-hand side of the road.

How much superior

Obviously the key factor for the off-road series was very slow, very much driving. "It goes to the individual, the two-wheel 'stability' showed just how much superior the Land Rover is built to control delicate off-road conditions."

Then this writer was made to drive continuously on a 45-degree dust and mud in the "Eggs" (a rubber roller known as the "Eggs" in the motor race), which showed that even with a vehicle with a high center of gravity, it could be made public even in a position seemingly at a stage of tipping over.

This writer was made to do a lot more or well (the world would know) and was made to

THE WRITER was taking on the off-road drive.



PHOTOGRAPH BY J. J.

Photo extended until DECEMBER 29, 2006 as approved by DTI-WCA. Visit your nearest Toyota dealer.

TOYOTA CHRISTMAS TREATS

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Free one year Comprehensive insurance*

Down payment for as low as 10%

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The maximum savings of up to P80,000 for selected Innova variants is based on the difference between the MSRP of the Innova 2.0 G and the Innova 2.0 GLE. See Rules for details.

TOYOTA
moving forward

Looking into Vietnam's transport sector

Text and photos by Charles E. Busch

BASKETS OF FRUITS and vegetables, poultry and livestock, small tools, beer and furniture. In Vietnam, people bring these and anything that can be loaded onto motorcycles, which account for more than 90 percent of the total number of motorized vehicles in this country of 83 million people.

Most there are no suburbs in this country, motorcycles have become the principal means of transport and share the city. Buses are only there when it comes to a long way to connect big cities.

One city has kept its old and the streets of Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) are now filled with motorbikes of every available color that the city could offer.

Of the 20 million motorbikes in Vietnam, more than 3.5 million are owned by the city.

Wander

Looking at the multitude of motorcycle riders gives one that eerie feel and wonder if anyone wants ride when they, and Vietnam, is still coming up and is even treated to upgrade the highways occasionally in just a few years.

Although Vietnam is one of a non-industrialized country, the government, especially after joining the World Trade Organization, now has to be in a position to upgrade a modern program, "dashed long-term" and the government who recently visited the country together with a group of journalists.

According to the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association, Vietnam's total sales of new cars, trucks



WHERE are the cars? In Vietnam, motorcycles outnumber cars 20 to one.



PVC has been up to a light-and-heavy-duty work for Vietnam's motor vehicles.

and buses—including imports and locally produced vehicles—is well under \$100 million. In just one year in perspective, the Philippines' total passenger vehicle sales is already over \$1,000 million (motorbikes are

around \$4,000).

Meanwhile, Vietnam's exports are still in a state of flux, but the country's export earnings rely on motorcycles to move their goods. For trade and related services

to take place successfully, goods movement must be as efficient as possible," explained A.C. Rodriguez, from Philippines VP for corporate services.

This should explain why trucks make up less than 5 percent of the total and 1 percent of the total. From just hundreds a year a decade ago to today's thousands of units a year.

Popular

"Trucks make up the bulk of the Vietnam, where it's enjoying the 1.5 percent," said Regi Manzano, president of Manila Vietnam Corp.

Manzano added that the 1.5 percent imported from Thailand is not the only one and is coming from the Philippines' 100 percent import duty.

"The growth of the automotive industry hinges upon the Vietnam government's decision to reduce tariffs on imported cars in 2000," Manzano said.

Manzano also noted that another thing that can affect the country's importing motor vehicles is its decision to put limits on the importation of non-motorized commercial vehicles and trucks.

There is a lot of vehicles on the road, but most are old. The 1980s and 1990s are the most common, and can be found with many more in Vietnam's traffic system, and can bring them into and out of the country.

"While the Philippines has seen much improvement in its vehicle industry, it should still keep a close watch on Vietnam's ongoing highway improvements and rapid motorization."

My right hand says that the road will be a long one, but it will be a long one. Indeed, no doubt we will see more and more of the country's motorization.

Motorists assured of better service with rollout of LTO TV

LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE Chief Asst. Atty. General Scouting has announced the rollout of LTO TV, the latest addition of the computer station, some version of the station program which is available on the last print made and interactive motion to promote LTO's basic service and also as a tool for information dissemination for LTO's business partners and upcoming projects.

According to Scouting, the project aims for the implementation of large but

screen TV set to all LTO sites. The TV sets are connected online and will be used for LTO's business partners and upcoming projects.

Scouting further noted that the LTO TV is also aimed at informing the public of daily traffic, road conditions, and regulations, thereby reducing the much-needed discipline on the existing public. The project

would also curb the activities of the roadside LTO drivers since the public would be more aware of the actual business process flow which is much more efficient and more expedient if customers transact directly with the LTO office with such facilities.

In full swing

The LTO TV project is currently in full swing with the 50 LTO offices of the national capital region set to be online with the connected center by

month. It would be implemented in the regional offices of the LTO by mid-2000.

The land transport chief also said this project is in partnership with Davao City and at no cost to the government since it is a private initiative.

Scouting said the LTO has been working towards the rollout of the project with the LTO's main objective of providing the motorist with its basic services but adding that

ing a trip further by providing better and more efficient public service.

There are the days when motorists would just be content with whatever service the LTO provides. The LTO is a more proactive to customer needs, hence we have had a number of programs for our customers, management facilities which we have been making improvements to. We have been making improvements to our facilities with the LTO's main objective of providing a more memorable experience," he said.

Mitsubishi donates computers

"WE'RE HERE TO CONtribute," emphasizing its mission to assist in the development of the life of the people, with which it has been active in the past, is the motto of the company.

Manila-based Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMP) has donated 10 computers to the National Computer Center (NCC) to assist in the development of the life of the people, with which it has been active in the past, is the motto of the company.

MMP's donation of 10 computers is part of its ongoing commitment to the development of the life of the people, with which it has been active in the past, is the motto of the company.

Donations

For the 15th anniversary of the company, MMP has donated 10 computers to the National Computer Center (NCC) to assist in the development of the life of the people, with which it has been active in the past, is the motto of the company.

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MMP members together with National Computer Center (NCC) members and staff. MMP donated 10 computers to the NCC to assist in the development of the life of the people, with which it has been active in the past, is the motto of the company.

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Two new SUVs for 2009

THE GLOBAL SURGE IN AUTO SALES notwithstanding, people are still curious about what new cars will carry the market next year. The 2009 New Car Preview issue of *Automotive Reports* listed 10 new vehicles for 2009, but claims are that only five of these will reach Philippine shores.

Add three out of the three—the all-new Audi A8 sedan—will also be launched in Manila. But Honda, on the other hand, only two, both of which are compact luxury sport sedans.

Volvo XC60

The Volvo XC60 is a compact (mid), or less, smaller than the XC70, a subcompact SUV powered by a 200-hp, 2.8-liter turbocharged in-line four gasoline engine mated to a 6-speed Geartronic XE. A prototype was brought over to Manila last August for the 2nd Philippine Insurance Council Motor Show. At that time, Volvo Car Asia Pacific Regional Business Manager Jack Zaid, who was also in town for the 2nd PIMS, said that the XC60 would be priced at P1.5 million.

Touted by the Swedish automaker as the safest and most beautiful Volvo ever, the XC60 showcases Volvo's latest safety innovations. Driver Alert Control warns the driver if a momentary lapse in driving. Adaptive Cruise Control maintains both speed and a safe distance from the car ahead. The City Safety system, incorporating Radar Alert and Collision Warning with Auto Brake, activates the brakes of the vehicle in front and if it senses that a collision is imminent but the driver doesn't react, automatically slows down or completely stops the car, depending on its speed at that instant.

The XC60 will also be equipped with Volvo's latest infotainment system (SIPS) which was introduced in the Volvo C70 last October, the Car of the Year Philippines 2007 winner.

Consumer Reports praised as "adjustable" Volvo's continued efforts to

make safety innovations that often provide a cost to other vehicles on the road.

Audi Q5

The Audi Q5, another compact luxury SUV designed to give readers a new first sensation at the 2008 Beijing International Auto Show last March and made its North American debut at the Los Angeles Auto Show recently. Consumer Reports says the Q5 looks like "a smaller more agile alternative to Audi's larger Q7."

Based on the 2009 Audi A8 sedan, the 5-cylinder 3.0-liter V6 will be offered in three competing models and have sophisticated

chassis, body and suspension components. The powertrain is a 270-hp, 3.2-liter V6 or a 240-hp, 2.8-liter TDI mated with a 6-speed AT.

While standard safety features include Electronic Stability Control and

air bags, Consumer Reports points out that the Q5's ESC includes a sensor to detect locks on the

road and compensates for the resulting higher center of gravity by engaging its lower steering knuckle bars

controlled.

The sporty other all-new vehicle for 2009 on Consumer Reports' list

is the Nissan Murano, Nissan QX

and the 2009 models listed by

Consumer Reports, a 6-cylinder

sedan, transmission is standard

equipment except for the Mercedes

Benzo GLK, which has a 7-speed AT.

Looks like the 5-speed AT is not

yet as an automatic technology

develops quickly, especially in terms

of safety.

Consumer Reports' Global Electric

Vehicle Control says the most

important automotive safety advance

since the invention of the safety belt.

It won't sell in cars, but especially

benefits SUVs because of their

tendency to roll over. By 2012, ESC

will be required in all new vehicles in

the United States and by 2009

the European Union. For Highway

Safety says that ESC has the potential

to save 12,000 lives annually. With

ESC, the US estimates that 80 per

cent of single-vehicle SUV crashes

could be avoided.



THE XC60, "the safest and most beautiful Volvo ever."

—Audi

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AUDI Q5

which was launched last July in the United States, Mercedes-Benz GLK (a smaller version of the GL Class SUV), Toyota RAV4 redesign, Ford F150, Dodge Ram and Ford F150.

Report

In all the 2009 models listed by Consumer Reports, a 6-cylinder sedan, transmission is standard equipment except for the Mercedes Benzo GLK, which has a 7-speed AT. Looks like the 5-speed AT is not yet as an automatic technology develops quickly, especially in terms of safety.

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The other advanced safety features described by Consumer Reports are cruise control, lane assist, traction control, blind spot detection, rear cross-traffic warning, pre-crash safety systems, proximity warning systems, adaptive cruise control and vehicle automatics.

More car manufacturers have known about these advanced safety features except perhaps for vehicle automatics, a combination of sensors and computer technology systems that allow drivers to speak with an operator in an emergency by simply pressing a button. A built-in microphone and the car's sensors enable the driver to speak to the operator while the vehicle sends a signal to the operator that it's been involved in an accident. General Motors' OnStar is the most common automatic that is now standard in many GM vehicles. Mercedes-Benz, Lexus and Acura (Honda's luxury brand) have their own automatic systems.

TODAY'S MURDER STOCKER: A new vehicle's bumper is like a neck without a pulse.

Toyota bags 4WD and Executive Subcompact car of the year

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP. RAISED THE bar for 4WD, 4-cylinder and 4-cylinder subcompact car for the 2008 J.D. Power and Associates

and the 2008 J.D. Power and Associates, respectively, in the recent Car of the Year (CoY) Awards as recognized by the Car Awards Group Inc. (CAG).



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Visor Organizer

Get two (2) Visor Organizers for every two (2) Goodyear tires purchased at any Goodyear Tire & Rubber Center.

The Hilux 4-cylinder pickup also received the J.D. Power and Associates' "Car of the Year" award for the 2008 J.D. Power and Associates' "Car of the Year" award.

The newly improved Hilux, launched in September, registered its leadership to Toyota's full market share with 300 units and 32.2 percent market share. As part of Toyota's powerful rise of the Japanese International Motor Vehicle, it shares the same platform with the Toyota Hilux and the Toyota Hilux.

Complete turnaround

The Hilux has enjoyed a complete turnaround in sales figures compared to the previous generation since the Hilux's debut in 2005. Three years after its introduction, it had stable sales volume, and with its recent improvements, it further challenged its rivals in the 1st position by the end of the year.

The Hilux, the company's best-selling vehicle, is at the heart of Toyota's local production system together with the Hilux, being the only vehicle produced by Toyota in the Philippines since its debut in 2005.

While Toyota gives much attention to providing innovative vehicles that would enhance customer experience, it gives equal importance to programs that would help educate the public about the most pressing issues related to the automobile industry—road safety and environmental protection.

The CagI together with the Automobile Association Philippines, recognized Toyota's Road Traffic Safety Program which aimed at educating public consciousness about the benefits of the road, looking out the ways to reduce loss, loss of lives and property, and accidents. Under this program, Toyota has executed various projects in cooperation with the AFP and the University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies.

Best media activities

The CagI also acknowledged that while Toyota sells the most number of vehicles, it also comes up with the best media activities that would not only showcase the performance of its cars, but ensure the best and most comprehensive presentation as well.

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Last April, the 18th Annual Toyota Road Trip brought over 40 touring journalists to experience their driving and navigating skills with the Corolla Altis and Yaris in the Toyota Road Trip.

A pleasant surprise awaited them in the islands of El Niño in Palawan, where they continued their road trip (and the beauty and purity of a world untouched by man's vehicles)—a clear outdoor and their every one—manufacturer, government, customer alike, should work hand in hand to achieve a sustainable society that would make a difference in the world.

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Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) is in effect to promote the growth of the automotive industry through the recent Car of the Year Awards.

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HILUX



GOODYEAR

GOODYEAR

GOODYEAR

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1 DAY TO GO



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Capture Special Moments this Christmas



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people will get a new, gleaming digital
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STYLE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Amazing what you
can do with coconut

By Marge C. Enslin
Civic House

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

DENNY CONSIDERED
Nashy Cane continues his love of organic materials and Filippiana themes. In keeping with the holiday's sunny mood and green design trend, Christmas is fused thermonuclearly with the versatility of the coconut tree, hence the title, "Coco Punks."
The pieces in *Wish* with transmutations from various parts of the tree. They're fused into surprising materials, which are then laser and laser etched. (Photo: Denny Nashy Cane)

Hotel lobby decor
is a harvest of ideas



How to make a coconut Christmas spray

INGREDIENTS:
Coconut shells
Targe (nest like) garden
decorative rocks
Water

Metals spray paint from the hardware store.
(Christmas balls and stars are optional)

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Amazing what you can do with coconut



ELEGANT even as Prince differs make from gold-spun scepters, golden bells, jingling buxys and scuffed-up stars. www.prince.com

Figure 2

fruit trays and seven crates, and these are used on Christmas trees and houses. The boards are later made into chick, cage and coffee that become bases for mulligatawny.

The trunk is round and is made from one or two stems. The paper pulp extracted from the trunk is transformed into cardboard, then shaped as stars. Concrete flowers substitute for thorns. Dried fibres of the concrete become petals for topology sculptures and ornaments. The soft leather epidermis, accompanied by tiny beads, are filled for arrangements.

Leafy perches from coconut branches, made to look like leaves, are conspicuous and common. Striped half coconut shells used in houses or built the flowers become leaves externally for a Christmas tree, while laminated perches are turned into little crabs. Even the flower clusters from the coconut tree are used to adorn the lanterns.

To signify prosperity, florists used the clove, the red and gold. The second group are bunches of four heads, red fern, anthurus leaves, gladiolus, purple leaves, cyclads, white flowers, dried rose petals.

Folk Hero Family

As the fragrance, the Italy family has a soft, subtle quality. Three giant flowers are made of buds with long, curved petals. Little stamens reflect the light and add sparkle to sight. They are crowned with glaucous petals, narrow leaf primordia and a long, slender style.

The *Quadrangula* term group is variable.



CHRISTMAS tree at the Jersey Bar made from real guinea fow, guinea, real birds and real jugs.



CHRISTALLINE were made from thin rays, and crystallized like ice. The masses, perforated by many holes, were broad and taper slightly and become rounded off ends.



POSITIVE roadway made of discarded brick traps, wooden boxes, cinders, handfuls of concrete

The elegant gold tree in the figure of Willem Alvert, the first dining roomward, is a mix of geometric shapes, square and round forms piled up on a metal frame, softened by wicker bark and moss.

Wild members of the piñon genus, even with the shape of a tree. The tree is the tall, 4-5 m perched on high boulders, strong together by some birds and perched up by some one human.

At the entrance of the Jeoggyi Hall, the gate is made of torii or pine not-wood columns painted in red, and made playful with prayers, various bird sculptures and other stuff.

For the place de resistance, the hotel's brandy kitchen was in the most exclusive part of the hotel. In the business lounge, the tree is made of red dried coconut husks, adorned with coconut string and coconuts that hang constant to the chandelier.



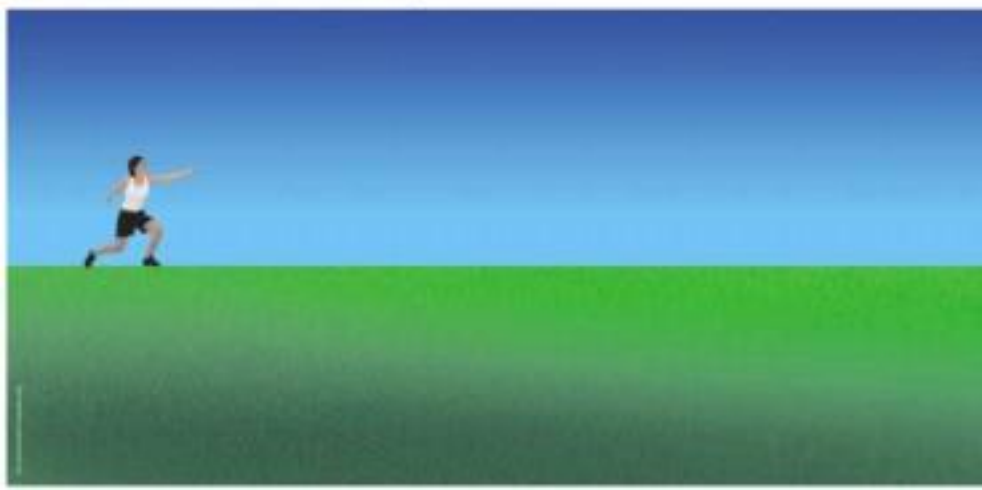
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all these and imagine life at Circle
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To state the most ambitious project of Origas & Company Limited Partnership (OOLP), the same group behind such developments as Valls Verde, Green Meadows and Lumbak, as well as shopping destinations Townside and Tantalus, Clavin Mexico announced it



lens of garlands and wreaths, the entrance is a lovely display of fresh orange blossoms, dried herbs, native lanterns, orange bark flowers and natural leaves.

Each tabled elegant tables made from dried wooden logs that were adorned with moss. The general manager

was totally appreciative that they were going to be off. They did not. The next day, however, he noticed some stress missing.

Rachy replied, "They're being an on somebody's leg by now."

The heart of his story is the confusion, tension and miscommunication that are behind every trip.

How to make a coconut spray

Ingredients:

1. Spray paint the empty coconut shells.

2. Spray them with white, as with the bodies of birds.

3. Use the white with ribbon.

4. For adult, add Christmas balls.

5. Spray on other decorative elements if you like.

For comparison, I better the results in all senses.

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Tables for the Christmas feast

By Lisa S. Bernardo
Cordilleran

THE PEOPLE BEHIND Glicerio & Traditionally Invited designer Robin de Pina, TV host Marcel Luna Pangilinan and two stylish Christmas tables. We were told to go around the mall and choose items from the different stores and put together a table fit for the holidays.

Robin chose a modern white theme for his Christmas table. Marcel opted for a family-friendly look and was more suited by his daughter Lily, while I chose to set up an elegant dinner for two.

The table will see this holiday season at the ground floor of Glicerio mall. All the participating stores are located in the third and fourth floors of the mall.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE FAMILY



PARCELS Luna Pangilinan chose products from Glicerio Exchange, Glicerio's, HomeDecor, Natural Art, Rabbie Heritage and Lily.



THE TWO other places are set for Marcel and his husband. Lily and I will have glass.

THIS EDGE Christmas table sets, cushions and extended designs to ensure a festive look.



MODERN ELEGANT



MODERN Rosa presents a modern Christmas tablecloth with a modern and elegant design from Glicerio's, Lily, Glicerio's, Rabbie, Natural Art, Exchange, Lily and Lily.



A DETAILED view of Rosa's holiday setting.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS



HYGHER Christmas was a silver mirror centerpiece complemented by tall red glass candlesticks.



HOUSE products from A Touch of Elegance, Asian Arts, Glicerio's, Natural Art and Pottery Barn. This setting features different about the gift basket and gold theme.

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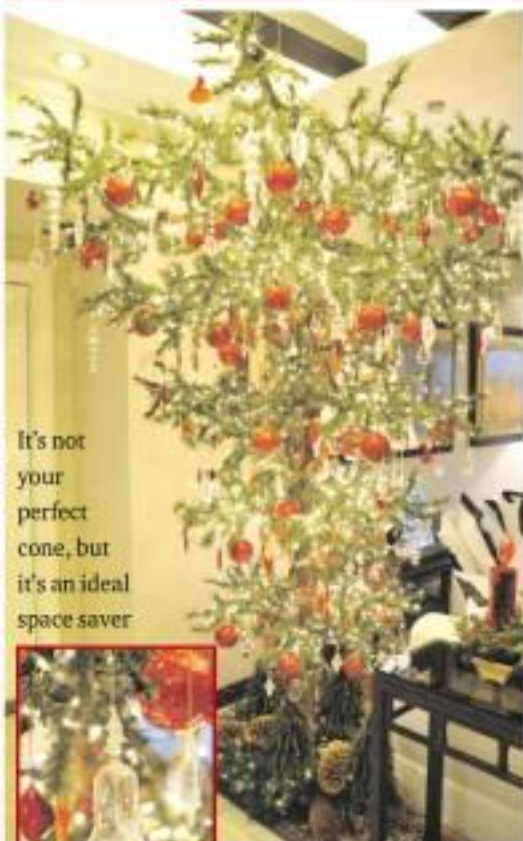


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INVERTED TREE. The type of tree leads the eye up as its branches spread out and reach the ceiling. Unlike a tree, *Ruiz* uses miniature trees and painted glass cones. *Holiday-Decor (ruiz)* the designer bought in Pakistan in 1999. PHOTO BY GUY LAWREN



MAILED AND SHEER. Artistic branching without ever being to see things which by combining shiny and matte objects.

STYLE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Not your traditional tree



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE for Laine Ruiz, wife of the late actor-director Philippine Ruiz, who finished her design in time.



CLASSIC WITH A TWIST. With pearls in many shades of red, she classed up vintage-looking the right heart objects.

By Kim Y. Vergara

THIS MAY RUPILE the feathers of curious "traditionalists," but the Christmas tree need not be the focal point of holiday décor.

Depending on your house's layout and other design factors, *play up style* such as grand staircases, large doors, round windows and even gardens.

"If you decide to make the tree your focal point, it doesn't always have to be a perfect cone," says interior designer Cory Ruiz. "Choose some people who feel that their tree is incomplete without placing a star on top. Not necessarily."

For nearly two decades now, Ruiz (0947-340696) has been decorating houses at Christmas, usually in Ermita Church, even before she had an interior design degree at the Philippine School of Interior Design.

Her odd but festive early Christmas, and moved to a studio made with the vintage furniture, she opted for an irregularly shaped "tree" and adorned with crystal balls and acrylic red balls in the living room.

"Most of those pieces have been with me since 1981," she says. "I brought them in this house Christmas that to decorate. I was with my husband who was

undergoing medical treatment."

It was an opportunity of art for the now widowed Ruiz. She discovered a new passion, which led her to interior design and create artwork conducted by professional designers in the Philippines.

"I used to get the bulk of my Christmas supplies from them," she says. "But since I discovered that I like to do it myself, I don't want to be a slave to them. I don't want to be a slave to them. I don't want to be a slave to them. I don't want to be a slave to them."

Space saver. Apart from the ritual of putting up the tree, she discovered a new passion, which led her to interior design and create artwork conducted by professional designers in the Philippines.

Indeed, it would have been inconceivable to put a tree, but Ruiz is a natural designer. Ruiz's mother-in-law, however, would have looked down on a large, high-ceiling living room.

As for as Christmas go, there's no way to go wrong with the classic red, gold and silver.

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Teaching children values through Filipino folk games

By Maureen Susan Domingo
Contributor

LAST WEEK DAVIDSON and JOHNSON launched the "Learning Pinyon Program," where I was glad to hear that Johnson is spearheading the revival of these

games. These are fun games I played in grade school, but I did I play them with my children, who are now 12, 10 and 15? No I did not. It might me a bit out that I did not introduce these games to them... which were interactive, energetic and competitive.

Below, I enjoyed the freedom to

jump, run and swing, for these are expensive games, too, that teach me values like honesty, sharing, discipline, teamwork and leadership.

As a parenting consultant, these games are opportunities for children to learn the core values to a fun way too, parents have to teach values to their children as early as 3 years old. Besides, this is also a very imaginative way of creating fun and laughter with kids.

As confirmed by two studies led by Dr. Queens Lee Chen, Hong Kong-based and I studied on and put together in the books, "Mapping my Pinyon" and "Helping my Child to do Well in School," children need non-academic activities after school. Our students need a shift in activities after night hours of school work.

Playing traditional games provides a shift for the mind as well as for the body to provide some exercise, giving them the freedom to jump, run and swing, aside from that, learning confidence through games. This time, they learn values that are

equally important to child formation.

Games teach core values to a way that kids can learn easily in a fun manner. The games followed by Johnson & Johnson are "Tubang Pinyon" (Baling Baling), "Pinyon-ayon" (Gintaron), "Tiga Spig" (Tiga) and "Tubang Pinyon" (Tubang Pinyon). These games can teach the values of teamwork, respect for self and others, having a winning attitude and physical and mental activity. Parents can also use these games as a way to bond with their children and the family.

For instance "Tubang Pinyon" can be played by parents with their kids and neighborhood kids or classmates. Through this game, parents teach the value of having a winning attitude—in this by even creating obstacles for them in the situation of the other team but by doing your best at everything possible.

Playing traditional games helps and brings memories in the childhood of your kids. Invest that time now with kids. From ages three to 18, these are the games you can use... adding it to their "love bank." These are very important in strengthening parent-child relationship and also building their self-esteem... It is a key ingredient in enjoying their time in



Author: Maureen Susan Domingo

the end, kids with good values become good assets to their school as well as to the community.

With the "Learning Pinyon Program," we hope to create the "Mapping my Pinyon" association.



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How to make Manila more baby-friendly

From page 1

and use to monitor, light

It would also help to provide hand sanitizers, diapers and disposable changing mats, and getting companies like Huggies and Pampers to spread supply vending machines.

Install more elevators in malls and buildings. They are safer than escalators, especially for kids and parents with pushchairs.

For some reason, most of our malls have very low elevators, and they're usually located in the service areas and not promoted in the general public.

Remove London developments such as the Galaxy Wheel business district and supported independent businesses there elevators to encourage them, even on busy days. Using pushchairs to monitor is dangerous.

Make our public transport more accessible. The MRT is great, but adding some of its stations' stairs with a pushchair would be very dangerous. There are elevators, but if they're broken, poorly maintained or just plain old-fashioned, parents would have no choice but to take the risky route.

Businesses also do well to upgrade their facilities. All London buses have space for wheelchairs and pushchairs, and sometimes drivers even lower their seats when a parent climbs on with a stroller.

Provide safe baby high-chairs in restaurants to encourage parents to bring their babies out. Not all restaurants would also be helpful.

Pharmacies, one of London's popular Japanese restaurants, always reserves seating for parents with pushchairs. I learned in the restaurant's concern so that kids can make noise, provide high chairs with safety belts and have a menu of their popular dishes to kid eat.

Their waters also give priority to parents with kids when the lines get very long.

A McDonald's restaurant outside London even has specially made tables where parents can sit on one side facing out, a second height table, while the other side faces in to a kid-friendly height to allow parents and kids to eat together comfortably.

What do local McDonald's can follow this design to be Philippine parents?



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IM PRESIDENT Thelma By-Corral and Senate Spouses Foundation President Cynthia Villar

Senate spouses play Santa

IT WAS AN EARLY CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER for IM kids when the Tubang Mapping Pinyon Foundation where members of the Senate Spouses Foundation Inc. moved them to a day of shopping and fun at IM Mall.

Christmas is November, an annual project of the Senate Spouses and IM, has been a holiday tradition for the low-income children of the Tubang Mapping Pinyon Foundation for the past several years.

The Senate Spouses played Santa for a day as they took kids around the IM Department Store—shopping clothes, shoes, bags and toys. Present were Senate Spouses Foundation president Cynthia Villar, Lourdes Florentino, Rose Gordon, Mercedes Olvera, Lani Cristiana, Aurora Gallo, Irene Espinoza and Arlene Villaverde. Executive Director and IM, has been a holiday tradition for the low-income children of the Tubang Mapping Pinyon Foundation for the past several years.

Christmas is November is a joint project of the Senate Spouses Foundation Inc. and IM together with Pampas, Lillian and Evelyn Brown.



Allene Villaverde helps one of the kids struggling her very old jacket.



President IM Villaverde playing hide-and-seek with the kids in her group.

Easing ATM bottlenecks in the holidays

MANY OF US HAVE TAKEN TO USING the automated teller machine like an elevator while the get-rich-quick craze is just enough for one day or may be until we see another ATM—which may be just a few hours later.

Given the uncertain times, it's not unreasonable. With all the deflation, consumers ought to conserve on their use of money to stretch how little we do need to get around anything a bit of cash. But, with the long holiday ahead, we will have to adjust our banking habits a little to make sure we have enough money to last, if possible, until the first working day of 2010.

It is easy to say only the banks have to worry about running thin on the day after the next, which is after New Year's Day (although Friday, Jan. 2, has not been declared a holiday since it was, but that the next work day will be Monday, Jan. 5, so people may not be inclined to work the Jan. one day but then another workday. This is why

and getting the cash we are likely to need now while banks still keep regular hours.

Key to noted that most bank employees have to go on holiday although banks like the Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI) will have customer service, the few people who have volunteered to man the company, so to speak, while the rest of us enjoy the holiday will not be able to give the same level of service. A full complement of employees can provide an regular work days.

Problems like represent, for instance, will be all the more difficult to sort out during the week. Christmas is the closest until the next holiday, which is after New Year's Day (although Friday, Jan. 2, has not been declared a holiday since it was, but that the next work day will be Monday, Jan. 5, so people may not be inclined to work the Jan. one day but then another workday. This is why

THE CONSUMER
Linda A. Delia

National 10. At the BPI's consumer banking head, even requests to have cash ready until Jan. 5.

Do not forget your utility bills in preparing your budget, especially if you have to go to the computer's bill to pay them. Utility companies will also be closed during the long break.

If you still owe, avoid your life in your head's office, phone, mobile or otherwise payment facility is that will save you from standing in line to pay your bills.

By making your withdrawals now before the holiday you will actually be able to help ensure that ATMs are fully loaded during the break. Banks can en-

gineer the ATMs before the break and, since people will not be needing as much money during the holiday having withdrawn the bulk of their cash requirements, there is less likelihood of the machines running out of bills.

The other option is, instead of going to the ATM every time you shop, pay with your bank card instead whenever and wherever possible. I am not talking about credit cards. I mean ATM and other debit cards. When major credit cards, like large department stores, supermarkets and more chains, can now process ATM cards when used to pay for purchases. Even bank's own Money card can be used in hundreds of establishments where Mastercard is accepted.

By using bank's debit card you will avoid the hassle of carrying a lot of cash and also lighten your purse as you only have to carry the card. Unless you do not have with you all the time anyway. Incidentally, a recent re-

sult from the United States said more Americans are shifting to debit cards mainly because of the current financial crisis.

BPI claims will be glad to know the bank has set up a website to address customers' concerns about using the long break. www.bpi.com.ph

Cable alternative

By Philip LDB Gaudin III, a finance law, media law, and other alternative to the regular cable. You will not have to keep watching it when it is windy as it is powered by two AAA alkaline batteries that can be easily changed when open.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1000 Clinic Road, 2nd Floor, Alabang City, 1304 Manila City. Tel: 8974703/4; or e-mail Feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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NOTE: A customer representative will contact you on the claiming instructions. Please include complete customer contact details (Name, Company Name, Designation, Contact numbers, Email, Address outside Metro Manila will be delivered).

Brand Channels/ contact information: Telephone No.: (02) 6349130 • Fax No.: (02) 635 3617 • Email Address: HPFemail@gmail.com • Office Address: 2/F EDC Bldg., 8 Rodriguez Jr. Ave., 11th, Quezon City

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"The Day the Earth Stood Still" is 20th Century Fox's contemporary reversion of its 1951 classic. Keanu Reeves portrays Klaatu, an alien whose arrival on our planet triggers a global upheaval. As governments and scientists race to unravel the mystery behind the visitor's appearance, a woman (Jennifer Connelly) and her young chosen get caught up in his mission - and come to understand the ramifications of his being a self-declared "blood to the earth."

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

12.11.08

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 THEATRE
 and Regular SM Cinema

METRO MANILA

RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

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IMAX
 MADAGASCAR 2:
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 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
SEA MONSTER (3D)
 4:00 PM
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (2D)
 4:00 PM

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 Robinsons Cinema is an equal opportunity employer

GALLERIA 12:00-12:30

1 TWILIGHT	8 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 TWILIGHT	7 QUARANTINE
3 BOLT	6 INSIDE: CINEMA ONE ORIGINALS
4 PRIDE AND GLORY / 100	5 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM OF SOLACE
5 FOUR CHRISTMASSES	10 LOVERBOYS

ERMITA 12:00-12:30

1 BOLT	8 SCAREGIVERS
2 TWILIGHT	7 QUARANTINE
3 PRIDE AND GLORY / 100	6 SCAREGIVERS
4 FOUR CHRISTMASSES	5 TWILIGHT
5 ONE TRUE LOVE	9 LOVERBOYS

METRO EAST 12:00-12:30

1 BOLT	8 FOUR CHRISTMASSES
2 TWILIGHT	9 QUARANTINE
3 TWILIGHT	7 SCAREGIVERS
4 PRIDE AND GLORY	5 ONE TRUE LOVE

NOVALICHES 12:00-12:30

1 BOLT	2 QUARANTINE
2 TWILIGHT	4 BILAL KARRILA

PIONEER 12:00-12:30

1 QUARANTINE	3 FOUR CHRISTMASSES
2 TWILIGHT	4 PRIDE AND GLORY

ITO ANG BAGONG SINING PINOY!
 NOW IN ITS SECOND WEEK!

UPCAT
 directed by Roman Olivares

TANGAW
 directed by Richard Iremes

DOSE
 written and directed by Randy H. Gun

December 10-16 Robinsons Galleria Mall

STA. ROSA 12:00-12:30	LIPA 12:00-12:30
1 QUARANTINE	1 BOLT
2 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT
3 SCAREGIVERS	3 QUARANTINE
4 LONG HELL	4 BURNED ALIVE

December 17-23 Robinsons Galleria Mall

DASMARINAS 12:00-12:30	IMUS 12:00-12:30
1 QUARANTINE	1 QUARANTINE
2 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT
3 SEX DRIVE	3 SCAREGIVERS
4 MONSTER SLAYER	4 PRISONERS

December 24-30 Robinsons Galleria Mall

ANGELES 12:00-12:30	MONSTER SLAYER 12:00-12:30
1 SCAREGIVERS	2 MONSTER SLAYER
2 TWILIGHT	4 CITY OF EMER

December 31 Robinsons Galleria Mall

STARMILLS 12:00-12:30	SCAREGIVERS 12:00-12:30
1 QUARANTINE	4 SCAREGIVERS
2 TWILIGHT	5 MONSTER SLAYER
3 ONE TRUE LOVE	6 PRISONERS

December 10-16 Robinsons Galleria Mall

BACOLOD 12:00-12:30	ILOILO 12:00-12:30
1 QUARANTINE	1 QUARANTINE
2 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT
3 BOLT	3 BOLT
4 MONSTER SLAYER	4 MONSTER SLAYER
5 SEX DRIVE	5 SEX DRIVE
6 CITY OF EMER	6 SEX DRIVE

SCAREGIVERS

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

OPENS on DECEMBER 11
 at all ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

